

Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior

§ 1243.4

1243.101 How will ONRR determine the amount of my bond or other surety instrument?

Subpart C—Financial Solvency Requirements

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*; 25 U.S.C. 396 *et seq.*, 396a *et seq.*, 2101 *et seq.*; 30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*, 351 *et seq.*, 1001 *et seq.*, 1701 *et seq.*; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 43 U.S.C. 1301 *et seq.*, 1331 *et seq.*, and 1801 *et seq.*

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Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 1243.1 What is the purpose of this part?

This part applies to you if you are a lessee or recipient of an order. This part explains:

(a) How you may suspend compliance with an order that you (or your designee if you are a lessee) have appealed under 30 CFR part 290 in effect prior to May 13, 1999 and contained in the 30 CFR, parts 200 to 699, edition revised as of July 1, 1998, or under 30 CFR part 290, subpart B; and

(b) When you or another person acting on your behalf must submit a bond or other surety or demonstrate financial solvency.

§ 1243.2 What leases are subject to this part?

This part applies to all Federal mineral leases onshore and on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), and to all federally-administered mineral leases on Indian tribal and individual Indian mineral owners' lands.

§ 1243.3 What definitions apply to this part?

Assessment means any fee or charge levied or imposed by the Secretary or a delegated State other than:

- (1) The principal amount of any royalty, minimum royalty, rental, bonus, net profit share or proceed of sale;
- (2) Any interest; or
- (3) Any civil or criminal penalty.

Designee means the person designated by a lessee under § 1218.52 of this title to make all or part of the royalty or other payments due on a lease on the lessee's behalf.

Lessee means any person to whom the United States, or the United States on behalf of an Indian tribe or individual Indian mineral owner, issues a lease, or any person to whom all or part of the lessee's interest or operating rights in a lease has been assigned.

ONRR bond-approving officer means the Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management or an official to whom the Associate Director delegates that responsibility.

ONRR-specified surety instrument means an ONRR-specified administrative appeal bond, an ONRR-specified irrevocable letter of credit, a Treasury book-entry bond or note, or a financial institution book-entry certificate of deposit.

Notice of order means the notice that ONRR or a delegated State issues to a lessee that informs the lessee that ONRR or the delegated State has issued an order to the lessee's designee.

Order means an order appealable under 30 CFR part 290 in effect prior to May 13, 1999 and contained in the 30 CFR, parts 200 to 699, edition revised as of July 1, 1998, under 30 CFR part 290 subpart B, or under 30 CFR part 1208.

Person means any individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, consortium, or joint venture.

[64 FR 26254, May 13, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 19113, Apr. 18, 2002]

§ 1243.4 How do I suspend compliance with an order?

(a) If you timely appeal an order, and if that order or portion of that order:

(1) Requires you to make a payment, and you want to suspend compliance with that order, you must post a bond or other surety instrument or demonstrate financial solvency under this part, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section; or

(2) Does not require you to make a payment, compliance with that order is suspended when you meet all requirements to file that appeal.

(b) You need not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section if:

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- (1) The order is an assessment; or
- (2) Another person agrees to fulfill these requirements on your behalf under § 1243.5.

§ 1243.5 May another person post a bond or other surety instrument or demonstrate financial solvency on my behalf?

Any other person, including a designee, payor, or affiliate, may post a bond or other surety instrument or demonstrate financial solvency under this part on behalf of an appellant required to post a bond or other surety instrument under § 1243.4(a)(1).

§ 1243.6 When must I or another person meet the bonding or financial solvency requirements under this part?

If you must meet the bonding or financial solvency requirements under § 1243.4(a)(1), or if another person is meeting your bonding or financial solvency requirements, then either you or the other person must post a bond or other surety instrument or demonstrate financial solvency within 60 days after you receive the order or the Notice of Order.

§ 1243.7 What must a person do when posting a bond or other surety instrument or demonstrating financial solvency on behalf of an appellant?

If you assume an appellant's responsibility to post a bond or other surety instrument or demonstrate financial solvency under § 1243.5, you:

- (a) Must notify ONRR in writing at the address specified in § 1243.200(a) that you are assuming the appellant's responsibility under this part;
- (b) May not assert that you are not otherwise liable for royalties or other payments under 30 U.S.C. 1712(a), or any other theory, as a defense if ONRR calls your bond or requires you to pay based on your demonstration of financial solvency; and
- (c) May end your voluntarily-assumed responsibility for posting a bond or other surety instrument only after the appellant under this part either:
 - (1) Pays or posts a bond or other surety instrument; or
 - (2) Demonstrates financial solvency.

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§ 1243.8 When will ONRR suspend my obligation to comply with an order?

(a) *Federal leases.* Subject to paragraph (d) of this section, if you appeal an order regarding the payment and reporting of royalties and other payments due from Federal mineral leases onshore or on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), and:

(1) If the amount under appeal is less than \$10,000 or does not require payment of a specified amount, ONRR will suspend your obligation to comply with the order. ONRR will use the lease surety posted with the Bureau of Land Management for onshore leases, and BOEMRE for OCS leases, as collateral for the obligation; or

(2) If the amount under appeal is \$10,000 or more, ONRR will suspend your obligation to comply with that order if you:

(i) Submit an ONRR-specified surety instrument under subpart B of this part within a time period ONRR prescribes; or

(ii) Demonstrate financial solvency under subpart C.

(b) *Indian leases.* Subject to paragraph (d) of this section, if you appeal an order regarding the payment and reporting of royalties and other payments due from Indian mineral leases subject to this part, and:

(1) If the amount under appeal is less than \$1,000 or does not require payment, ONRR will suspend your obligation to comply with the order. ONRR will use the lease surety posted with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as collateral for the obligation; or

(2) If the amount under appeal is \$1,000 or more, ONRR will suspend your obligation to comply with that order if you submit an ONRR-specified surety instrument under subpart B of this part within a time period ONRR prescribes.

(c) Nothing in this part prohibits you from paying any demanded amount or complying with any other requirement pending appeal. However, voluntarily paying any demanded amount or otherwise complying with any other requirement when suspension of an order is otherwise available under these rules does not create judicially reviewable final agency action under 5 U.S.C. 704.